



Attorney Docket No. 10046.200-US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Xu

Confirmation No. 4004

Serial No.: 09/885,379

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filed: June 19, 2001

Examiner: Irene Marx

For: Methods for Eliminating the Formation of Biofilm

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2003, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 22, 25, 28, and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 34-66. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-33 cancelled.

34. (New) A method for preventing or removing biofilm on a surface, comprising contacting the surface with an effective amount of one or more acylases and a carrier to degrade a lactone produced by one or more microorganisms, wherein the degradation of the lactone prevents or removes the biofilm.

35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactone is a homoserine lactone.

09/05/2003 BABRAHA1 00000057 501701 09885379

01 FC:1252 410.00 DA
02 FC:1202 234.00 DA